

WADCO NEWS



Volume 2

Plainville, Mass., Aug. 1, 1921

Number 14



FACTORY OF WHITING AND DAVIS CO.

Pageant of Progress

Chicago

On July 30th, 1921 one of the world's largest and most costly educational and artistic exhibitions will start in Chicago known as The Pageant of Progress.

Among the prominent exhibits will be the one made by The Whiting & Davis Co., for during the exposition there will be a miniature mesh bag factory in full operation, making bags in the most modern way by our highly perfected machines. For contrast and to illustrate the advancement made in the manufacture of fine bags, they will be made by hand as was done prior to 1909, when the first machine was put on production.

The Company has arranged for an extensive display of completed bags, and samples of various kinds and sizes of mesh, including some over three hundred (300) years old and a piece from a coat of mail worn by a warrior of ancient Europe.

The Pageant of Progress will be held on the Municipal Pier, one of the world's greatest achievements of engineering. This pier was completed shortly before the war at a cost of \$5,000,000. It is a solid concrete structure and extends into Lake Michigan three thousand (3000) feet, more than a half mile. On the pier are built two massive buildings, each 2340 feet long and 125 feet wide, the largest exposition halls the world has ever seen.

J. O. Gagnon Wins Prize Trade Mark Selected

Mr. Gagnon of the Die Cutting Dept. has been awarded the prize in the trade mark contest. Congratulations are in order for there were many contestants. The judges were Mr. Chas. Whiting, Mr. Armes and Mr. Kenyon. Each entry was numbered, a duplicate number with name attached was kept separate for impartiality. When the entries had been brought down by elimination to two by Mr. Whiting, Messrs. Armes and Kenyon were asked to pick the best one of the two with the result above stated.

Midsummer Vacation

New England's seashore and mountain resorts will be well patronized by those who have looked forward all year to the annual vacation. Many will go by auto over the best of roads through scenery unsurpassed. For those who want the salt air such places as historic Cape Cod will appeal and to the north of Boston, Lynn Beach, Marblehead, Plum Island and farther along we come to Salisbury and Hampton beaches. Many go to these lively beaches. As we travel on we come to York Beach and Old Orchard in Maine which is said to be the finest beach in the world and only twenty miles from Portland. Old Orchard is 150 miles from the factory.

For those preferring the mountains the White Mountains have the call, here we have some of the finest scenery in America, a good trip being up through Crawford Notch. Another nice trip takes one through Worcester, Springfield to Pittsfield which is near the York State line up over the Mohawk Trail. Here one can see scenery that is well worth the trip. Many take tents along and camp on the wayside.



DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

Wadco News

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GREETINGS

To you, my Friend, whether employee or otherwise, this issue of our paper comes with its note of "Optimism."

It is essential for all of us at this time when our Country is going through the "Travail of Reconstruction" to put forth our best efforts in order to bring the Ship of State into calm and peaceful waters once again.

And it is for this reason common sense prompting that Whiting & Davis have faith in the future, its brightness depending only on the efforts we put forth. Do not let us forget enthusiasm which is a part of successful effort. It has been said that the difference between prosperity and depression in a business way is only 15 per cent. One can see what psychology has to do with it.

CHICAGO

A great many of us are more or less conversant with the wonderful growth of Chicago during the last century and this "Pageant of Progress" is but a sign of the vast amount of enthusiasm for Progress. It comes at a most appropriate time and surely will be as a tonic on a depressed business condition. There is nothing which can act as such an incentive to carry on as to see "What the other Fellow is doing." "Success attend your effort, Chicago," is our earnest wish.

"MA CHERIE"

In a new restaurant for French members of Parliament, placards on the walls request members of the House not to flirt with the waitresses.

Harry Miller Lewis, weight 9 lbs. arrived on the ninth of July at the home of his papa. Archie is some proud.



MR. CHARLES A. WHITING, TREASURER

"A ROBUST OFFSPRING"

The Whiting & Davis Company, following out their policy of manufacturing everything under one roof, established the Whiting Chain Company in the year 1912 in order to furnish machine made chain.

The growth of the Company from the very first has been most remarkable as is shown in the variety of products as well as in the quality and quantity produced. From the one line of machine chain, expansion has gone along various lines until it now includes, outside of a complete line of machine made chain in the better qualities, fancy chains of all descriptions, lockets, pendants, rosary cases, bead necks, crosses, bracelets and pin sets.

From the modest beginning of a few hands the Company now has well developed departments in all lines. This remarkable growth of the business has been largely due to the policy of the Company to give the best of service and quality at the lowest figure possible.

These facts have been well supported by the business the firm has had during this last business depression. The factory was operated on a nine hour day, five days a week until July 18th, when it went on to an eight hour day schedule.

The Company's aim has always been and still is "Better and better service to its Customers."

EMPLOYEES OF TEN YEARS OR MORE OF SERVICE

	Years
Oscar Walden	45
Carrie Simpson	44
Eugene Whiting	44
John Loeffler	42
Tom Tierney	40
Mamie Heckman	38
Ed. Boyle	26
Frank Brown	26
Lottie Wilcox	22
Phil. Bennett	22
Horace Cheever	21
Frank Gaddes	18
Willis Fuller	18
Ella Yuill	16
Christine Pfanstiehl	16
Hattie Coombs	15
Henry Heintz	14
Ed Pink	13
Harlan Morgan	13
Frank O'Donnell	12
Lee Higgins	12
Byron Gardiner	12
Dick Berkeley	12
Eva Wheeler	11
Bertha Goyette	10
Louise King	10
Milton Bacheller	10
Romeo Gendron	10

AUTHORS WAGES

The largest lump sum ever paid for a novel was the \$200,000.00 received by Alphonse Daudet in 1884 for "Sappho."



MESH DEPARTMENT

From Vikings Bold and Knights of Old To the Modern Ladies Fair

**An Up To Date Chapter of a Story
That Has No End**

BY LINCOLN AMES

This is chapter No. 1921 of a continued story—and a long one.

Might as well be frank about it. The beginning has been lost. The ending has never been imagined. And the author humbly admits that he hasn't the slightest idea when and by whom the final chapter will be written. Whiting & Davis have done more to complete the story in the past twenty years than the rest of the world has done in more than twenty centuries.

It is the story of man's cunning in the making of metal rings into strong and beautiful fabrics.

Those early chapters were lost in the dim, dark ages when strange tribes of men were struggling up from the Stone Age through the slow centuries that brought them knowledge of metals and their use.

The ancient Viking, who feared the mythological hammer of Thor, went into battle fearing no man and wearing armor of interlinked iron rings made with hand-riveted rows alternating with hand-welded rows. Centuries later Science discovered that part of the story the Vikings had so

laboriously wrought with crude tools when archaeologists excavated their graves and found their ancient war-gear.

The famous tapestry of Bayeux, France, which depicts scenes of William the Conqueror, ruler of England from 1066-1087, tells more of the story. In the seven-colored weave, thought to have been his Queen Matilda's own handiwork, is pictured a warrior of that time clad in his coat of mail. This metal mesh, hand-welded one link at a time, became the generally adopted form of armor for the great Crusades that followed the Norman conquests. It was used for centuries until gradually supplanted by solid plate armor between 1390 and 1410 A. D.

It's a long jump to 1876 when this concern began making jewelry—and history. Then in 1880, 41 years ago the 13th of July, one of those little events that later assume tremendous importance, happened when C. A. Whiting was hired as office boy at 9 cents per hour.

He worked his way through the position of assistant foreman and became the company's only salesman, covering the United States from New York to San Francisco. In 1890 he became a member of the firm—and in 1892 he took up the story of metal mesh at the place where ancient armorers had left off. That year Whiting & Davis Co. made their first mesh bag, a tiny plated novelty of coarse unsoldered rings, made and put together entirely by hand.

Since that day, year by year, and chapter by chapter, Whiting & Davis Co. have added to the story of me-



SOLDERED MESH DEPARTMENT



BENCH DEPARTMENT

tal mesh and to the beauty, strength, fashionable features, and artistic finish of dainty gold and silver mesh bags, which have become a permanent and perfected part of milady's costume for any occasion.

And today it is easier to suggest the crudity of ancient mesh, hand welded upon the anvil, one link at a time, than it is to depict the skilled refinement of the expert artisans and machinery which make the Whiting & Davis Co. plant the largest and best equipped establishment for the manufacture of mesh bags in the world. Today, for instance, 100,000 tiny gold or silver rings made into one complete mesh bag may be soldered securely in the short space of 60 seconds. And so well is the work done that each one of those rings—9-1000ths of an inch in thickness—will hold a weight of 5 1-2 pounds.

Whiting & Davis were the first to use solder-filled wire in making mesh bags. They are the owners of all the patents on the mesh-making machine. This was originally invented in 1909 by A. C. Pratt, but many new patents and improvements have been added from time to time to make the perfected machine of today and to extend exclusive ownership rights many years. More than 350 of these machines are operated today. Many of the company's employees are the inventors and makers of other special machinery used in this plant. All the workers are constantly seeking for better

methods. And every year sees something done a little more perfectly, a little more precisely than before.

And now, if we could take a bar of "raw" silver by the hand and hop-skip-and-jump right down through the factory with it, as we have skip-skip down through the centuries, this is what we would see before we emerged into the shipping room with a little flock of delicate but everlasting sterling silver mesh bags, born of that

block of metal.

Off to the melting room, then. The silver is melted with a bit of pure copper to make sterling silver 925-1000ths fine, and cast into a bar 1 1-2 inches in diameter.

The bar is drilled neatly in the middle—a hole accurately centered and precisely 1-14th as large as the bar. Into this hole is fitted a long cylinder of solder, which is then melted into a still more perfect fit in a special revolving furnace.

As delicate and dainty as the modern mesh bag is, it takes some ponderous machinery to create it. And just at this juncture a 32,000 pound rolling machine pounces upon the defenceless little solder-filled bar of silver and squeezes it smaller and smaller—longer and longer.

Rolling tends to make metal harder and less workable. Therefore the silver, which is now more like a rod than a bar, is annealed in an oil-burning furnace to restore its original texture and toughness.

The revolving rollers of a reducing machine hammer it smaller and pass it on to the bull-block and the sleeve machine, which do not mean much to the stranger but which, little by little, draw out the metal until it is coiled in long length of silver wire. This shining coil then goes onward for the final finishing touch of the machine that draws it finer and finer through diamonds and winds it on spools—a long silver thread only 9-1000ths of an



STAMP DEPARTMENT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

inch in width.

And don't forget the solder. It is still there, precisely in the center of that little thread. And just as it was 1-14th of the size of the bar, so it is in the wire just 1-14th of 9-1000ths of an inch wide—invisible but ready for its very important duty.

When this spooled wire is put upon a mesh machine, this magician of the factory begins its work, making and weaving into place 280 to 300 tiny silver rings per minute. Each ring, cut off from the thread and bent U-shape, is folded into a perfect circle just 42-1000ths of an inch in diameter in its proper place in the mesh so that four other rings are linked within each one.

So light are the rings that gravity alone would not pull them to their proper place, so the super-human machine uses little jets of compressed air to help each link along.

There they go, 300 links per minute, and above the machine rises a phantom column of silver, perfectly round, luminous with its silver sheen, and so delicate as to seem almost transparent. The mesh is woven in cylindrical form and, untouched and unguided by human hands, the machine goes until the "stocking", as it is called, rises nearly to the ceiling. And if ever a single link is missed or if the end of the wire is reached, the machine automatically stops and waits for the man who cares for the needs of fifteen machines like it to

come and feed it the proper medicine.

Off to the slitting machine goes the shining "stocking." Little cogs fit into the tiny meshes and draw it toward the revolving circular knife that does much more neatly and accurately what once was done with shears. Presently it is one long, flat piece of silver mesh that ripples like fine silk and glistens like a great dew-drenched cobweb in the grass at sunrise.

The flat strip then goes to the cut-

ting room where it is fed into a machine that to the uninitiated looks like a combination of a clothes-wringer and a player-piano. The clothes-wringer part grips the strip with corrugated rollers that fit the mesh. A roll of tough paper, in which are slits not unlike those on a player-piano roll, is the pattern. The slits allow certain little knives to operate and hold back all the others. Thus as the mesh and the paper-pattern proceed, the machine cuts out the perfect pattern of the bag that is to be. This machine is one of the newest ones perfected at the plant.

The cut-out mesh is forwarded to the joining room where girls use machines that sew up the bags with little single links of silver exactly like all the others in the bag. They do much more easily and quickly now the work that up to a year ago had to tax the eyes and deftness of experienced hand-workers.

A cleaning process prepares the mesh bag for the soldering room where electric furnaces solder all the rings in a bag at once, whether there be 25,000 or 100,000 of them—and in about 60 seconds.

Another cleaning and the bag is sent to the lacquer room and on to the assembly room where the frame will soon catch up to it.

In the case of plated bags this final washing is followed by a 40-minute bath in the silver plating tank in which hang plates of solid silver. In



PLATING DEPARTMENT



MESH JOINING DEPARTMENT

these tanks from 60 to 120 bags or 120 frames may be plated simultaneously by the familiar electrolysis method which eats away the sterling silver from the plates hanging in the bath and deposits it evenly and gradually, particle by particle, upon the bags and frames hanging on the racks. After the plating tank, the plated pieces are tubbed thoroughly in revolving tubs of soap and water with fine shot which smooth and brighten the newly-silvered things.

Now when all this was happening in the making of the mesh, the frame was being made in other departments.

For the making of frames the metal is cast in flat ingots about an inch thick, four to six inches wide and about 10 inches long. This is rolled and annealed until the required thickness is reached and then sent to the stamping room.

There is another type of machine there—a 33,000-pound leviathan that is called a “knuckle-joint press”. And when I said press, I was using the same word I would have to use were I speaking of sweethearts holding hands, but I referred to a dainty little monster that doesn’t know how to press less than 1,200,000 pounds. And in the fact of such a fervent embrace as that, it is not remarkable that the cut-out pieces of flat silver do just as the giant desires and assume the most beautiful shapes and designs. In the press department the rough edges—the selvedge—is cut off,

and, by an ingenious and specially designed machine, all the little holes for joining the mesh to the frame are punched at once, each one in its proper place to the smallest fraction of an inch, and each one just 30-1000ths of an inch wide.

In the bench room workers with dainty tools and little jets of gas flame solder the joints and ball knobs onto the frames. The ball-knobs are made automatically on special ma-

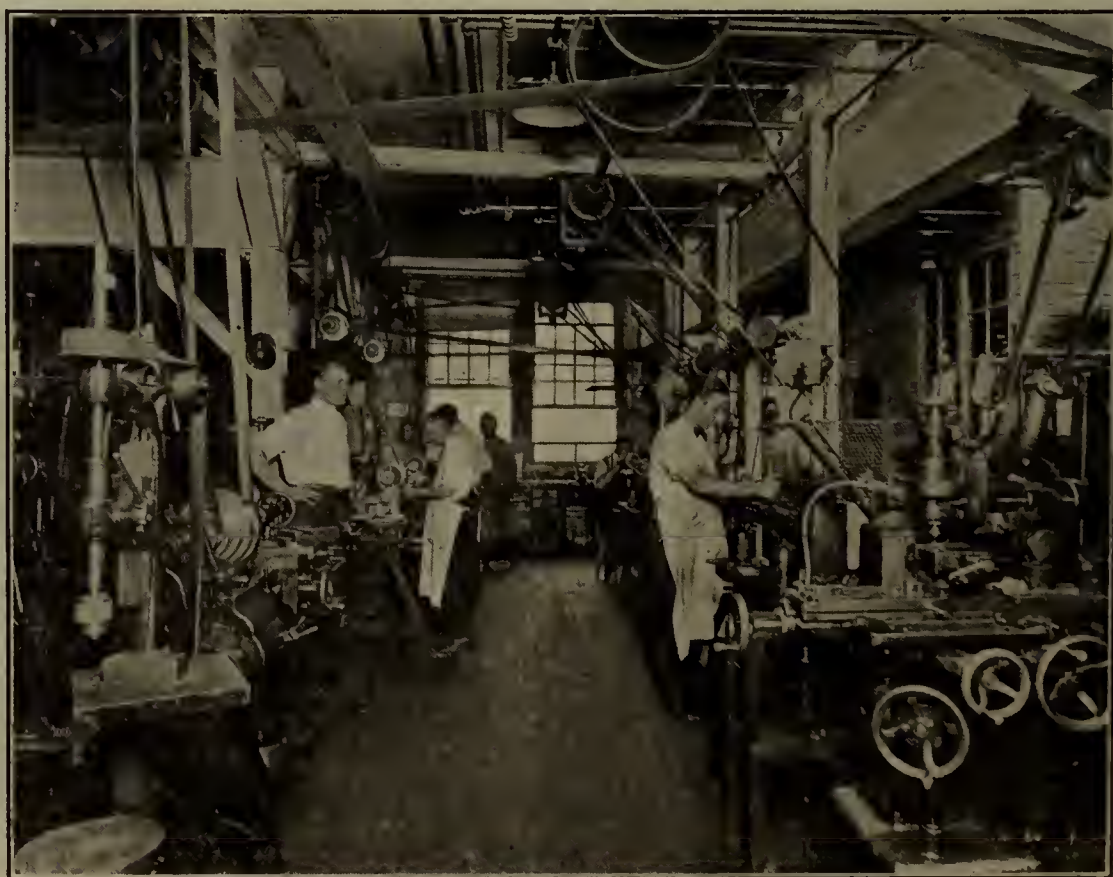
chines.

Cleaning comes next and then “bobbing” on little wheels of walrus-hide with different degrees of abrasive. Frames cannot be tumbled in tubs so they must be brushed and polished to bring out the proper finish. Plated frames, of course, follow the mesh through the plating tanks. Those to be finished dark have to be carefully painted with oxidizing acid and rubbed with fine pumice.

Fine spiral wire is used in the assembly department to join the mesh bag and the finished frame together. Once made by hand, this spiral is now made automatically. A remarkable little machine that operates unattended night and day, takes the straight wire from the spool, curls it accurately into a continuous spiral that never varies, cuts the spiral into perfectly measured lengths, counts each one, and drops it into a little tray. When 100 have been counted, the machine pushes forward another tray and goes on counting and cutting.

The mesh bag’s chain is made of wire manufactured by the solder-filled process. Automatic machines handle and join the links, more deftly and precisely than any human being could. And each machine turns out as much as 75 yards of chain per day all in one piece or in separate 1-inch pieces for use in making the fringed bags so popular today.

Into the inspection department for



TOOL DEPARTMENT

the final approval of experienced judges go the finished bags. Then into soft envelopes and boxes before they are sent to either the foreign or domestic shipping departments to be packed for shipping.

Fifty skilled mechanics design and build all the machinery used in the plant and make all the dies used in the manufacture of many styles of bags. And some of the best engravers in the business are employed there to work on the fine solid gold and silver mesh bags which are set with fine stones and delicately engraved.

The Whiting & Davis Co. is the largest concern of its kind in the world. This company makes 90 per cent. of all the mesh bags made in this country and sends thousands of them abroad. They operate a branch factory in Sherbrook, Quebec, Canada; and branch offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

They make one of the few things in the equipment of modern women which never wears out—for there never is a time when a Whiting & Davis mesh bag may not be made just as good as new for a small fraction of its original cost, no matter how roughly it has been used. And for the special service of those whose mesh bags have been impaired through long usage or accident, a complete repair department has been established apart from the main factory.

It is equipped like a miniature factory. Here bags are taken apart, mended, washed, polished, or re-plated. Then they are re-assembled just like a new bag and sent back to their owners in less than two weeks' time.

It is in this department that the great improvement of the spiral-wire method of joining mesh and frame is demonstrated in contrast to the older method of attaching the mesh to the frame by separate rings. Every time such delicate rings are bent open they are weakened. With the spiral, though, one end may be freed and then the whole spiral comes out easily and quickly without opening a ring by simply "unscrewing" it. The re-assembled bag with the spiral replaced is just so much more strong and "good-as-new."

This, in the hop-skip-and-jump fashion, is the way that Whiting & Davis have been writing new chapters in the story of metal mesh.

From the first crude efforts of primitive man to make for himself some metallic protection against his foe-man's weapon, down through the



ASSEMBLING DEPARTMENT

centuries to these dainty bits of gold and silver mesh that lend their lure to the fair maids and matrons of today, is a jump that nearly spans the whole history of civilization.

But within that time the achievement of the Whiting & Davis Co. has never been equalled or surpassed.

"Mesh Bag" Goes A-Journeying

The door of the velvet lined show-case opened; a clerk's hand entered, then withdrew, leaving in the very centre of the "stage" a sterling silver mesh bag. Against the background of deep purple, it's every detail was brought out in bold relief.

Nearby, nestling in a draped fold, "Diamond Ring" looked coldly out on a passing world, while on the other side, "Platinum Watch" awaited the moment when she should begin her career of incessant ticking.

Mesh Bag gazed first at one and then the other. Diamond Ring, conscious of her arresting sparkle, gazed straight ahead in superior disdain, but Platinum Watch made shy advances.

"Another one of the Mesh Bag family," she said. "Dear me, I was just becoming acquainted with your cousin, when the clerk removed her

and a beautiful young lady walked out of the store swinging Mesh Bag from her wrist."

"We are a popular family," said Mesh Bag, and her rings shone even more brilliantly, if that were possible. "Back home, in the factory, where they were getting me ready for my debut in the world, I could hear them saying, all day long, 'Hurry up with that bag, we need her to fill this order.' I remember one day when I was in the soldering room, having my rings soldered together, a man came in who was waiting for us to decorate his show-case. 'Can't you hurry these up?' he asked. 'You don't have to be so particular about each of those little rings.' But the workman who was doing it so skillfully, could not be hurried. After the man had gone, I heard him telling one of the other workers what a pity it would be to send a Mesh Bag out into the world with rings that would not hold together. 'Supposing a young lady should be hurrying through a crowd, trusting her valuables to the strength of Mesh's Bag's rings, and they did not hold together. Why the whole family would be disgraced. No sir,' he said, 'we have to be particular.'"

"Hump," from Diamond Ring, who glittered even more coldly, "how these plebians of common origin do talk. One would think they really felt themselves to be in our class."

"Your class?" and Mesh Bag seemed to quiver all over with an-

THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION



SHIPPING DEPARTMENT

ger. "Here they have given me the very center of the show case where everyone gazes at me first, and you talk about 'our class.' Why, I'll wager that many more members of my family will pass in and out of this case while you will still remain. What good do you do in the world? Merely decorate a finger, while I am trusted with all sorts of valuable and private things, to carry about the world."

Just then there was an interruption. A shadow was cast over all three of them. Mesh Bag looked up. Gazing down upon her, a pair of eager eyes took in her every detail.

"Look," she cried, "the girl sees only me. She is not at all interested in you. I am going to say good-bye, for I know by the expression of her eyes that I am going to find a new home. Give my regards to my relatives who will join you soon."

The show case door opened and once more the clerk's hand entered. He withdrew Mesh Bag and held her up proudly before the enraptured gaze of the young lady.

"Oh, isn't it a beauty," and she reached out to take Mesh Bag in her hands and caress the silky smoothness of her rings.

It was but a matter of moments before Mesh Bag, proudly swinging from the hand of her new mistress, went forth to her new world. She could not help but look back toward Diamond Ring with a look of triumph, while she still felt pity that

they must rest there in the velvet lined case as she went forth to join the moving crowds.

J. E. K.

EXAGGERATIONS.

Does anyone remember the massive violin that was on exhibition at Portland, Maine, some ten years ago? It was 38 ft. long and required 3 men and a boy to play it. One man did the fingering the other two worked the bow (one at each end, cross-cut saw fashion) while the boy stood on the bridge sprinkling rosin on the strings with a sugar scoop.

"TAKING CARE OF STOCK"

With what a pleasant sensation do we handle stock which has shown care in keeping it bright and new looking. Many times one has noticed in display windows an article which seems to have been neglected, in fact, looking for all the world as if it had been used and cast aside. Of course the display window is not a fit resting place for it.

How important to show it fresh and clean in order to create desire on the part of the would-be purchaser.

Look your stock over, it will help you make sales and customers.

There is one thing in particular that should be better attended to by the heads of the different departments and that is the immediate reporting of any person in their department when taken sick so that they may receive immediate attention from the nurse and their names placed on the books that prompt payments may be made of their claims.

They also jeopardize their right to benefits as the By-Laws plainly state that payments for sick claims shall begin at the date of notification to the proper officers, whether notification is received at the beginning of said sickness or six weeks after. So if all members will be careful to notify the head of their department the same will be appreciated by the officers.

For the information of those who do not belong to the Relief Association, it can be stated that about 80 per cent. of the employees are members and entitled when sick to receive \$8 per week after the first week, when \$4 is paid. The benefit runs for 13 weeks. The assessments are paid bi-monthly, amounting to twenty cents, which amount is taken from the pay envelope.

IN A MESS

Two miners had never seen golf played before. They stood watching a fat unskillful player at work in a bunker. The sand flew up but the ball remained. Seven agonizing shots had been played.

The player made his eighth attempt. The ball was lobbed up, dropped on the green, and rolling gently to the pin settled in the hole. By Gosh! said one of the miners to the other, "He's got a deuce of a job now!"

"A REVIVER"

A glass of hot milk with nutmeg sprinkled on top is an excellent restorative after tiring work.